The member concluded by saying that, though he desired to dwell a little more on the subject, he could not do so for want of time.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Parameswaran Pillai. As regards that last statement of yours, I regret your having said that after you had as a matter of fact been given more than five minutes above the time usually allotted.

In regard to the remedies you have suggested, it is not possible for me to say how far they are practicable, but, I may assure you that they will receive the best consideration of the Government and I daresay, the committee that is going to be constituted will consider them.

51. Commercial Development.

MR. S. EASVARAMURTHIA PILLAI (*Trading classes, Trivandrum*) said that in the existing condition of the country it was quite necessary to introduce commercial subjects in schools and colleges, as in the schools and colleges of the Bombay Presidency. The member stressed particularly the need for the introduction of those subjects, because it seemed to him to be the only policy which afforded the prospect of immediate and substantial relief of the unemployment question. In many parts of the State, the people mainly depended upon trade for their maintenance, following it as their ancestral profession. Their children possessed the instinct for trade, and what was required was scientific training.

The speeding up of commercial litigation was a subject which was engaging the attention of the Law's Delays Commissioner. But no time should be lost in prescribing remedies for avoiding delay in the disposal of commercial cases, as those cases affected to the daily income of merchants.

The member then dealt with the difficulties experienced by the merchants in regard to the return of cash and ledger books filed in courts along with their plaints. The accounts were not returned until the cases were disposed of. There were several instances in which they were unduly delayed even after the disposal of the cases. A general order to avoid such delays was very necessary as the accounts were prepared in the daily course of business and had therefore to be referred to daily in order to institute legal proceedings in time and to keep transactions current.

The Income Tax Inspectors periodically visited places of business of traders and merchants and, after examining the accounts kept by them, returned to their offices taking with them all the information required for a correct assessment of the Government's dues. But very often such visits were followed by an order of other officers that the merchants should take the same accounts and other records to their offices for further examination. The poor merchants had to leave their shops to the care of irresponsible servants and spend their time in the premises of the offices, awaiting the convenince of the examiners. If the subsequent verification could be done by the Inspector himself or by any

other officer authorised in that behalf, the necessity for the accounts being taken to the offices could be dispensed with. Orders should be issued accordingly.

In conclusion, the member suggested that orders should be sent to the Revenue authorities to issue to retail tobacco merchants weights similar to those used in tobacco bankshalls where a pound was equivalent to 38 13/16 tolas. The pound weights which were used by the retail merchants were equivalent to 40 tolas. The anomaly should be removed at an early date and the weights made uniform.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Easvaramurthia Pillai. Some of the points that you have mentioned, as you yourself said, must be now before the Law's Delays Commissioner and you may expect that some remedies for them may be suggested in the report which he will be sending up to the Government.

In regard to commercial education, I take it that you know that subjects like Commercial practice, Book-keeping, Typewriting and Office correspondence, are already optional subjects for the English School Leaving Certificate Examination. Government are not unaware of the fact that commercial education and training are necessary and they have also taken some measures to bring such instruction and training within the reach of people in Travancore. There is a Government Commercial School at Alleppey. So, you see that Government are doing something in the matter.

As regards uniform standard of weights, as a matter of fact, it has been prescribed and every licensee has been told that he should use only standard weights. But there seems to be some difficulty in the retail dealers getting their weights properly stamped by the Revenue authorities. Government will look into the matter and pass orders soon.

The other points that you have raised will receive due consideration.

52. Concessions to the Mercantile Community.

MR. SIVATHANU PILLAI CHOCKALINGOM PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Colachel*) speaking in Malayalam, said that one of the important profitable professions in the country was commerce. The people engaged in that profession provided a large and growing body of poor men with work. Unlike in Travancore, the mercantile and trading interests in Japan and the European countries obtained substantial help from the Governments of those countries. The member made the following suggestions for the improvement of trade in Travancore:—

(i) Piers should be constructed at Colachel and Quilon, which were two important ports in the State.

(ii) Sheds should be constructed with roofs of iron sheets for storing merchandise at the two ports.

(iii) The road leading to the Colachel port should be widened.

(iv) A branch of the State-Aided Bank should be opened at Colachel.